



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that five individuals were indicted on December 9, 2004, by a federal grand jury in Kansas City, Kansas. Those indicted include:

- **Emigdio Hernandez Bustos**, 23, and **Abelardo Hernandez-Hernandez**, 21, both of Mount Airy, North Carolina, are each charged with one count of possession with the intent to distribute approximately 10 pounds (approximately 4.55 kilograms) of methamphetamine on November 29, 2004, in Russell County, Kansas.

If convicted, each face a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Russell County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy Hendershot.

- **Dawn Pickens**, 34, Grandview, Missouri, is charged with three counts of bank fraud and aiding and abetting bank fraud.

The indictment alleges that from August 20, 2001, through August 29, 2001, Pickens devised a scheme to defraud Guaranty Bank and Trust of Kansas City, Kansas. The indictment alleges that on August 20, 2001, a counterfeit check in the amount of \$18,950.98 was deposited into Picken's account at Guaranty Bank and on August 28, 2001, a second counterfeit check in the amount of \$17,845.00 was deposited into her account. The indictment further alleges that on August 21, 2001, Pickens withdrew \$1,600.00 from her account at Guaranty Bank; that on August 24, 2001, she withdrew \$12,150.00; and that on August 29, 2001, she attempted to withdraw additional money from her account.

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If convicted, Pickens faces a maximum of thirty years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department and the U.S. Secret Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Leon Patton.

- **Thomas Feldt**, 44, Kansas City, Missouri, is charged with one count of unlawfully destroying, detaining, and delaying approximately 236 postal cards for *The Kansas City Star* advertising supplements, which were intended to be conveyed by mail, on November 21, 2003, while a Postal Service employee.

If convicted, Feldt faces a maximum of five years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Leon Patton.

- **John Stratton**, 37, Kansas City, Kansas, is charged with two counts of unlawfully destroying, detaining, and delaying postal cards, which were intended to be conveyed by mail, on July 28, 2003, and August 12, 2003, while a Postal Service employee.

The indictment alleges that Stratton unlawfully destroyed, detained, and delayed approximately 312 postal cards for *The Kansas City Star* advertising supplements on July 28, 2003, and approximately 1,038 postal cards for *The Kansas City Star* advertising supplements on August 12, 2003.

If convicted, Stratton faces a maximum of five years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Leon Patton.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Indictments filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.